

REMARKSStatus of claims

Claims 29-34 and 36-38 remain in this application. Claim 29 is currently being amended. Claims 1-28 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of divisional and/or continuation applications.

Claims 29-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano ('872) in view of Lewis, Kittrell, Ito or Nagasaki. Claims 36 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alfano ('872) in view of Lewis, Kittrell, Ito or Nagasaki and further in view of Janes.

Although Ito and Nagasaki disclose the use of a CCD camera on the distal end of an endoscope, these references fail to disclose or suggest that such a camera could be used to detect endogenous fluorescence or Raman light returning from the tissue. The remaining references also fail to disclose or suggest such a structure. Claim 29 has been amended to clarify that a broadband light source or a laser radiation source is to be coupled to the fiber optic cable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
BOWDITCH & DEWEY, LLP

By 
Thomas O. Hoover
Date: *June 30, 2004*
Registration No.: 32,470
Direct tel.: (508) 416-2475
Telephone: (508) 879-5700
Facsimile: (508) 929-3073

Bowditch & Dewey, LLP
161 Worcester Road
P.O. Box 9320
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-9320